

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. As our regulatory body that controls and regulates the use of these air waves, it is incumbent upon you to ensure that they are used legally and fairly. This is why you exist, and you seem to have no issue with banning or fining other consumers of these same airwaves that "fail to meet your standards" in other areas. I don't understand how this obvious mockery of your regulatory authority could possibly meet your standards.

But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I expect you to apply your standards consistently and to not allow this large company to abuse OUR airwaves in a way that we clearly do NOT all agree is the best use.

Thank you.